

Appl. No. 09/729,397

Listing of the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

1. (previously presented) A method of conducting an auction utilizing a network computer system connectable to a plurality of monitors, the method comprising the steps of:

(A) displaying an image of at least one scaled graph having incremental bid levels upon a computer monitor reflecting a range of monetary values;

(B) graphically displaying an individual ask bid at a selected incremental bid level upon the scaled graph;

(C) graphically displaying an individual buy bid at a selected incremental bid level upon the scaled graph;

(D) graphically displaying a spread having a plurality of the incremental bid levels between the graphically displayed individual ask bid and the graphically displayed individual buy bid; and

(E) reconfiguring the scaled graph with the displayed individual ask bid, the individual buy bid, and the spread in response to the spread decreasing to a selected quantity justifying a reallocation of the incremental bid levels.

2. (previously presented) The method of conducting an auction of claim 1, wherein the step of reconfiguring the scaled graph is determined by a mathematical formula.

3. (previously presented) A method of conducting an auction utilizing a networked computer system having a plurality of coupled monitors, the method comprising the steps of:

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- (A) displaying a graphical scale upon a monitor;
- (B) displaying an individual buy bid upon the graphical scale;
- (C) displaying an individual ask bid upon the graphical scale;
- (D) displaying a plurality of incremental bid levels upon the graphical scale

between the individual buy bid and the individual ask bid, wherein a quantity distribution and a monetary valuation of each bid level is dependent upon a spread between the individual buy bid and the individual ask bid, and

(E) graphically redisplaying the graphical scale, the individual buy bid upon the graphical scale, and the individual ask bid upon the graphical scale in response to a narrowing of the spread between the individual buy bid and the individual ask bid with an entry of a new individual bid, wherein a new quantity distribution and a new monetary valuation of each incremental bid level is dependent upon the spread between the individual buy bid and the individual ask bid.

4. (previously presented) The method of conducting an auction of claim 3 wherein the step of graphically redisplaying the graphical scale is determined by a mathematical formula.

5. (previously presented) A system for auctioning goods between remote users and an auction service provider, comprising:

- (A) a host computer network, including database server means to electronically store auction data and means to access and transmit auction data in response to user commands;
- (B) remote computer workstations with respective video monitors, including means to send user commands to the host computer network, and means to receive and display on the video monitor the auction data from the host computer network;

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(C) communication network means for electronically linking the computer workstations to the host computer network;

(D) means for generating a graph or graphs upon the video monitors;

(E) means for displaying an individual sell bid upon a graph;

(F) means for displaying an individual buy bid upon a graph;

(G) means for determining a spread between the individual sell bid and the individual buy bid;

(H) means for determining a quantity and a monetary value of a plurality of incremental bid levels associated with the spread;

(I) means for displaying the plurality of incremental bid levels associated with the spread; and

(J) means for redisplaying the graph, the individual sell bid, the individual buy bid, and the spread upon the video monitors with a reallocation of the quantity and the monetary values associated with the plurality of incremental bid levels in response to a narrowing of the spread with an entry of a new individual sell bid or individual buy bid.

6. (previously presented) A system for auctioning goods, comprising:

(A) a networked computer system having a plurality of monitors;

(B) means for generating a graph having a plurality of incremental levels representing monetary values, wherein a quantity and a monetary value of each incremental level is determined by a spread between an individual buy bid and an individual sell bid; and

(C) means for regenerating the graph and the quantity and the monetary value associated with each incremental level in response to a narrowing of the spread between the individual buy bid and the individual sell bid.